Welcome to Looking for Information Using NebraskAccess.

NebraskAccess contains a collection of information sources that are available to Nebraska residents, including MasterFILE Completee, a general database that offers access to popular magazines, journals, and other sources on a variety of topics. In this video, we'll be exploring MasterFILE Complete and highlighting some of the key features of the database. Feel free to open the database on your device and follow along using your own keywords and search terms.

Let's start by searching on a research question. In the search box, I've typed

a sample research question: "Why do high school students who experienced depression also feel a sense of shame?" I'll pause briefly now for you to input your own search question, if you'd like. If you searched on your own question, how many results did you get? Too many? No results at all? In our example, searching on the research question itself yields more than 3,000 results. There are certainly relevant articles in this list, but there is far too much irrelevant material here to effectively locate useful information.

So what are some strategies we might use to get search results that are more useful? Pulling out key terms and concepts from our research question is one approach. Another is to take advantage of the robust search options that are often available in databases, such as MasterFILE Complete.

Let's try combining these two approaches and searching again, using the advanced search option. Some keywords and related terms from our sample research question are "high school students" OR "students" OR "teen" AND "depression" OR "mental health" AND "shame" OR "stigma". I've connected the related words for each concept in separate search boxes with ”OR” and used “AND” to connect each box that contains a different concept from my research question. I'll pause briefly here in case you'd like to mimic this search with your terms on your device. This search still turns up a large number of results, over 200, but by looking at a few of the titles, already the articles listed here appear to be much more relevant to our sample search question than those in our previous search.

To further narrow results, you could use the limiters listed under the refine results column in the margin. For example, if you are only interested in articles that you can access immediately, select the full text option to see how that impacts your search results. You can see for our example, search we're down to 123 items.

You can also limit search results to those items published within a certain time frame. Perhaps we're only interested in material that has been published since the year 2010 In this example, we still have a large number of results to go through, or that are relevant to, um, the search that we conducted.

But if you aren't finding good results or you want to expand a search that is returning limited results, you might consider including different databases in your search. Selecting the choose databases option allows you to add other relevant subject-specific resources that you may then search across simultaneously. For our sample research question, dealing with mental health, the Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection seems particularly promising. After selecting additional relevant databases, try your search again. After limiting for full text and for articles that have been published since 2010, our sample search--while going across MasterFILE Complete and the Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection--has yielded over 300 results. Again, this is too much to go through, but you can get a sense for how, um, your strategic searching and selecting specific databases can impact, um, the materials that you're you're seeing in your results list. If you added another resource to the databases that you're searching, how did including this new resource affect your search results?

Once you have found an article that seems promising, don't forget to download it and take note of publication details for future reference. You'll want to click through to the PDF link--if it's available--and select the download option to make sure that you're getting the full text of the article. This has been a quick overview of one of the resources available in NebraskAccess. If you need assistance, please ask a librarian for help.